MIAMI-SOUTH FLORIDA
National Weather Service
Forecast Office
http://www.weather.gov/miami

TYPICAL SEPTEMBER RAINFALL MOST AREAS

SOME AREAS CURRENTLY AT TOP TEN HIGHEST YEARLY RAINFALL TO DATE

The relative lack of major weather systems affecting south Florida in September led to somewhat more typical rainfall pattern which is characterized by greater variations in rain amounts (Figure 1), with the area under a generally moist west to southwest wind flow aloft, albeit not as pronounced as in August (Figure 2). Most of metro southeast Florida as well as inland portions of southwest Florida received near to above normal rainfall in September, while most of the eastern Everglades, western Collier County and areas right around Lake Okeechobee were below normal. Most areas ranged from 6 to 10 inches of rain for the month.

Only seven of the 31 sites that report daily rainfall over mainland South Florida recorded September rainfall of 10 inches or greater, as opposed to 26 in August. Leading the pack was Everglades City with a September total of 15.41 inches, followed by Juno Beach with 14.59 inches and NWS Miami with 14.20 inches. On the drier side of the spectrum, Naples Municipal Airport only recorded 3.78 inches which was between the two lowest recorded values in south Florida (Canal Point 3.74 inches and Moore Haven 4.05 inches).

Some locations have added on to their already-high yearly rainfall totals and are in the top ten highest yearly rainfall totals to date (January through September). These include Miami International Airport (79.51 inches), Fort Lauderdale Dixie Water Plant (69.24 inches), The Redland (72.69 inches) and Miami Beach (55.87 inches). Many areas are approaching or have already exceeded their average rainfall for the entire year. A complete list of year-to-date rainfall and rank is included below:

Station – ***Beginning of Records***	**Jan - Sept 2012**	**Rank**
MIAMI - *1911*	79.51	Wettest to date
WEST PALM BEACH – *1888*	67.40	5th wettest to date
FORT LAUDERDALE	50.92	5th wettest to date *
NAPLES – *1942*	32.83	* *
NWS MIAMI – FIU MAIN	89.23	

JUNO BEACH	73.56	
THE REDLAND - *1958*	72.69	Wettest to date
FT LAUD DIXIE WTR PLANT	69.24	2nd wettest to date *
HIALEAH - *1940*	68.39	6th wettest to date
HOMESTEAD GEN APT - *1990*	67.58	Wettest to date
NORTH MIAMI BEACH	65.14	
FORT LAUDERDALE BCH	61.79	
PALM BEACH GARDENS	60.13	
HOLLYWOOD – *1963*	56.63	
MUSE	56.39	
CAPE FLORIDA	56.26	
MIAMI BEACH - *1927*	55.87	4th wettest to date
SOUTH BAY (OKEELANTA)	52.68	
OASIS RANGER STN - *1978*	51.61	12th wettest to date
LABELLE - *1929*	50.07	18th wettest to date
BRIGHTON RESERVATION	48.64	
MOORE HAVEN – *1918*	48.16	17th wettest to date
BIG CYPRESS RES	43.76	
NAPLES (GOLDEN GATE)	43.35	41st wettest to date **
MARCO ISLAND	40.37	
CANAL POINT – *1941*	39.88	44th wettest to date
ORTONA	38.33	
IMMOKALEE	31.02	

**** Rank for Fort Lauderdale is for Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport (FLL) which goes back to 1999. At Fort Lauderdale Dixie Water Plant, records go back to 1911. Data for both sites was merged several years ago.***

***** Records at Naples Municipal Airport (APF) go back to 1999. At Naples (Golden Gate), records go back to 1942. Data for both sites was merged several years ago, including data from old cooperative site at the Naples Conservancy.***

Miami International Airport is rapidly approaching their record-wettest calendar year total of 89.33 inches set back in 1959 and it is likely that they will surpass it by the end of the year. The Redland is also close to their calendar-year record of 83.98 inches also set in 1959. However, West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale are unlikely to break their records of 108.63 and 102.36 inches, respectively, set in 1947 at both locations.

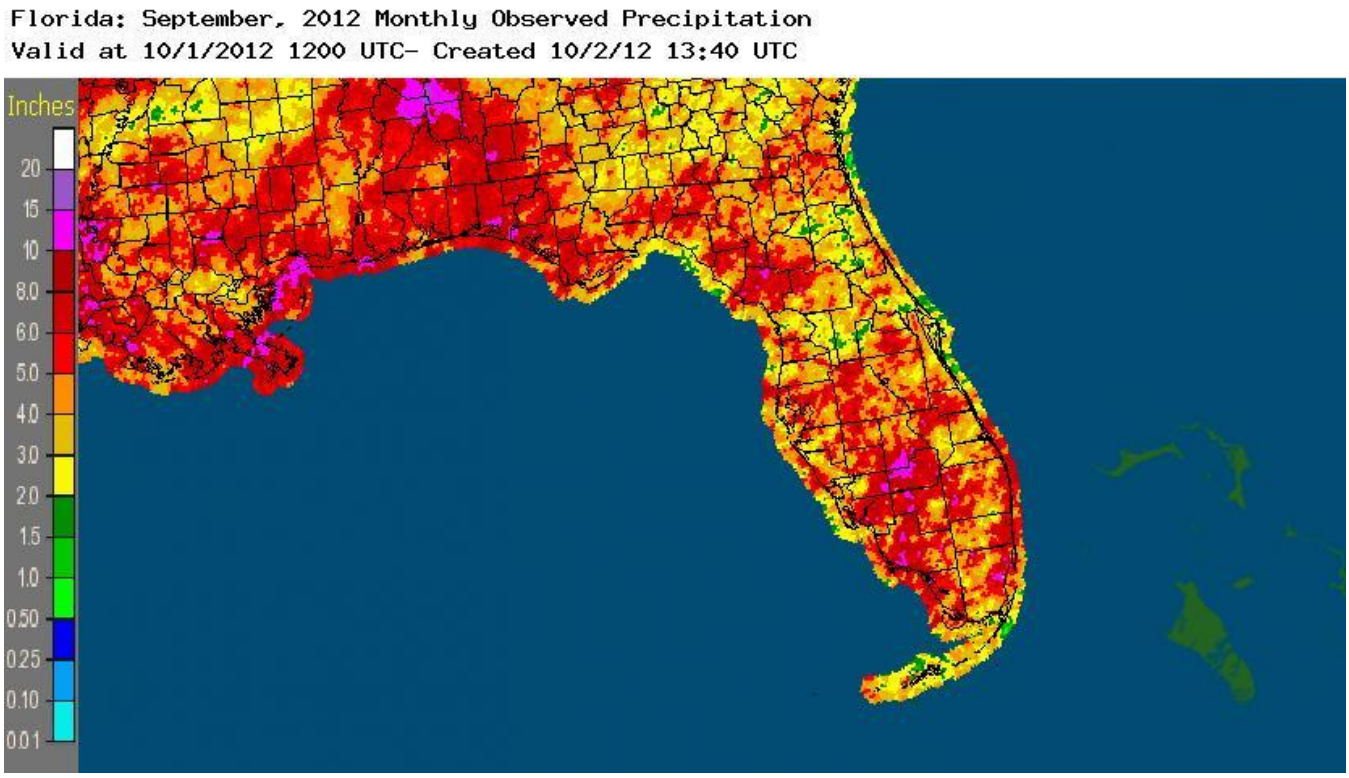

FIGURE 1: September 2012 rainfall totals

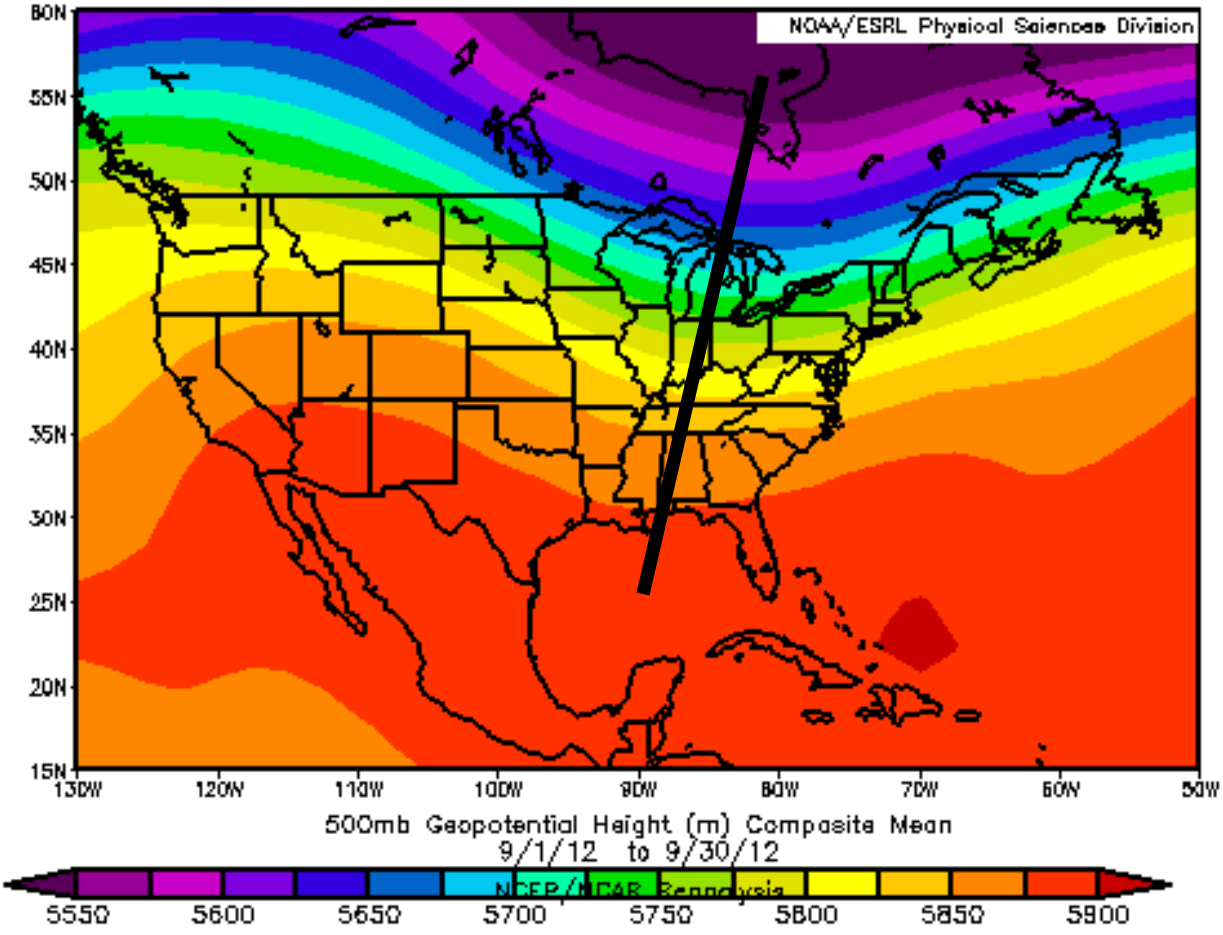

FIGURE 2: 500 MB AVERAGE HEIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012. BLACK LINE DEPICTS GENERAL LOCATION OF LOW PRESSURE AXIS IN THE MID-TROPOSPHERE SEPARATING MOIST SOUTHWEST WIND FLOW TO THE EAST (OVER FLORIDA) FROM SLIGHTLY DRIER NORTHWEST WIND FLOW TO THE WEST.

TEMPERATURES

The increased cloud cover and rainfall played a big role in keeping temperatures near to slightly below normal during September. This is a continuation of the temperature patterns observed since the beginning of the rainy season in May.

OUTLOOK AND HAZARDS

The long-range outlook by the Climate Prediction Center for October calls for a likelihood of above normal rainfall along with equal chances of above, below or near normal temperatures. Long-range models such as the CFS call for near normal temperature and rainfall through the end of the year.

October usually marks the transition from the rainy season to the dry season, with the median start of the dry season sometime around October 17th. It is too early as of this writing to determine when this fall's dry season will begin and there is normally a transition period of a few weeks before the first noticeably cooler and drier air settles into the area.

October also marks the month of most combined direct/indirect hurricane strikes over mainland South Florida. This is a reminder that hurricane season is far from over and all residents and visitors should keep their hurricane plans ready to be activated in case a storm threatens the area.

The expectation of a weak El Niño through early 2013 slightly increases the likelihood of a wetter and cooler dry season (November through April). More information on the dry season outlook will be released later this month.

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